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SUBJECT

Liberal Party Activities

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REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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- 1. Support by the Liberal majority in the Colombian Congress of the recent proposals for electoral reform and an economic plan has brought about a new split in the Liberal Party. On 15 December 1948 a group of leftist Liberal representatives headed by Jorge Uribe Marquez, who did not vote with the majority, formed the "Comando Nacional de Izquierda Liberal", also referred to as the "Comando Izquierdista Revolucionario." Despite the opposition of the members to the electoral reform and the economic plan, the Comando resolved to cooperate with the National Liberal Directorate in the mobilization of the Party for the 1949 elections. The platform of the new group will be based on the political program of the late Jorge Eliecer Caitan.
- The Comando will issue a manifesto covering the political situation and explaining the leftist Liberal point of view on the following problems:
 - The work accomplished during the session of Congress which terminated on 16 Lecember 1948.
 - The electoral reform.
 - The economic plan.
 - The Mares Concession (now held by the Tropical Oil Company).
 - helations with syndical organizations.
 - Mationalization of banks and certain large industries.
 - Mavigation on the Magdalena River.
- 3. The agitation campaign of the Comando was initiated with a lecture given by Uribe on 7 January 1948. On 17 January the Commando planned to hold a large mass meeting of delegates from all the Departments of Colombia. A propaganda organ, known as Gaitan, will be published by the group under the direction of Uribe. It was planned that this publication would appear the second week in January 1949. It was also claimed that thousands of messages have been received by the Comando evidencing a desire for a definite program and orientation.

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- 4. The split in the Party and the general discontent of the rank and file with the Directorate have become increasingly evident. It is also apparent that any Liberal leader who wishes the support of the laboring classes must be extremely leftist in his political tendencies and general support of the programs of Gaitan. During the first week of December 1948, the Directorate for the Party in Valle del Cauca appointed new leaders for several local committees in Cali. The local committees immediately protested. They resented the fact that they had not been consulted and are fearful that the National and Departmental directorates are attempting to place moderate Liberals in positions of power.
- 5. On 18 December the Comando elected the following secretariat:

President
Secretary General
Assistant Secretary General
Secretary of Information and Propaganda
Secretaries of Organization

Jorge Uribe Marquez Captain Jose Phillips Nincon Hernando Garavito Munoz Jose Maria Cordoba Cabriel Munoz Uribe Julio Cesar Cardona Luis Arenas Garcia Gustavo Bautista

Treasurer

Manuel Jose Gaitan Pardo

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